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Revd. Samuel May junr.
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Extract of a letter from Rev. S. A. Steinthal, to Samuel May Jr, Corresponding Secretary of the Massachusetts Anti-slavery Society; dated — Bridgwater, England, August 17th 1852.

Please return this, when copy is done with, to Saml. May Jr, Leicester, Ms., by mail.

My dear Mr. May,

I have to thank you not only in my own name, but also in behalf of all English Abolitionists for your valuable letter to me. It is most encouraging, and will I am sure stimulate many to increased ardour in our sacred cause. You need not apologize to me for printing extracts from my letters, whenever you think them calculated to do good. I trust to your discretion in not inserting anything that had better remain private, and whenever I write anything for your own use, & that of your immediate friends, I will for safety's sake mark that private. You will see that I immediately have passed an act of reciprocity, as the next Advocate will contain a good many extracts from your letter. R. D. Webb and Miss Estlin agree with me, that it is so well calculated to call forth cooperation & so well adapted

~~the answer the doubts and fears of Enquirers so that it would be wrong to keep it in private hands alone.~~

Our Conference in Manchester went off very well, with one untoward circumstance, Joseph Barker wished to speak, but was not permitted, from what appears to me to be a wrong view of a point of order on the part of several of our friends, and from religious bigotry on the part of many ministers who were present at the meeting. No one who knows George Thompson, Chesson, & Dr. Beard will accuse them of pandering to prejudice; they were conscientiously of opinion that Joseph Barker was out of order. I thought them mistaken and publicly stated this: If I had not known that an opportunity of doing so would be afforded to me I should have felt myself obliged to leave the Conference. — The meeting has however been very useful. It has diffused much information and has brought the American Anti Slavery Society prominently before the public. Parker Pillsbury was truly eloquent; & some passages of his speeches were alike memorable from the deep, impassioned feeling they displayed, and the noble manner in which he expressed himself. From one who has laboured so earnestly and so devotedly as he has, addresses like those he delivered on the first of August come with peculiar force and propriety. – George Thompson's Morning Speech on the West India Question was perhaps the most useful oration he ever delivered, so full of facts to prove that Emancipation has been even a greater blessing to the West Indies, than its most sanguine friends could have expected. You will not be surprized to hear that his facts were clothed in language well calculated to warm ~~[illegible]~~ the heart with generous enthusiasm. – ~~The effects of the Conference will, I hope, manifest~~

~~themselves at your Boston Bazaar. Parker Pillsbury has I know called forth renewed efforts in one town in Lancashire, Bury. He preac there last Sunday but one; and his services were truly blessed I hear. — There will be a Bury box for you in future. —~~

~~Your~~ The concluding paragraph of your recent letter referred to the case of our coloured seamen arriving in ~~the~~ South Carolina Ports; and you very justly ask whe we have done our duty? — It is a source of shame to us, that we must say, no. — Our Government has shamefully neglected the rights of its subjects. We have not, as a people, take steps to compel the government to do its duty, and must therefore in this respec bear the reproach your ~~note~~ question so justly impli This is one of the few questions which the British & Foreign A. S. Society have taken up. They have tried to bring the matter before the house, and have succeeded so far as to persuade the Hon. A. F. Kinnaird, the member for

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Perth, to ask the government for papers to be laid before the House. Lord John Russell in reply said, that the negotiations were proceeding so very favourably that he thought it would be imprudent to lay the papers on the table. He had the greatest hopes that important amelioration would soon be made in the laws of the States alluded to. What Lord John Russell meant, I can not tell. On what he founded his hopes I can not guess. Your country men have passed the fugitive Slave Law, have passed the Nebraska bill, have frequently put the Fugitive Slave Law into practise; S. Carolina seems to be in no wise likely to improve the position of its coloured population, or to lessen the severity of its laws towards strangers. How, notwithstanding these facts, patent to every eye, Lord John can make such assertions, I am fairly at a loss to say: but the Honble A. Kinnaird was satisfied. The same gentleman ~~to~~ was at a later period of the session again requested to bring the matter forward, but said that as it would be very inconvenient to the Government, he would rather not! According to our Parliamentary etiquette, the subject is one which the Member for Perth can alone bring forward, as he has once moved in it, & it is regarded as *his* question in consequence. So we are in a fix. If we had one good sterling Abolitionist in the House of Commons, perhaps parliamentary etiquette could be got over. ~~but Anti-Slavery as most of our men are. There is not one of whom I could really say, he is a thoroughgoing Abolitionist of the true stamp.~~ The Government is not what it should be. Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston have both been active in the suppression of the slave trade on the Coast of Africa; but they have not shown themselves alive to their duties towards our coloured seamen. They have submitted to what I cannot but look upon as a great degradation. They have permitted the ministry, for which they are such prominent and influential members, to appoint the Right Honble Sir John Young the member for the County of Cavan, as Secretary for Ireland. It is a notorious fact that this man is a Slaveholder. What can we expect from men who can make such a selection for a post of high influence? – I am unable to say how bitterly this wounds our Anti Slavery feeling, and how injurious this is to any vigorous measures on the part of the powers that be.. It is a proof of the want of true Anti Slavery feeling in the Country ~~that~~ this insult to the nation is passed by unnoticed. We have more to do here in awakening a true Abolition movement, than some people imagine; ~~they~~ mistake the natural sentiment of hatred of oppression, for active and ~~[illegible]~~ enlightened Abolitionism. It is not yet fully seen that England's duty was not completely fulfilled when we emancipated our own Slaves. Our Manchester Conference was useful this way; I hope the London Conference may do more. You will have noticed that ~~we~~ the Manchester Conference appointed a strong deputation to be present at that in London.

~~We have had (private) further an unpleasant duty to perform toward L. A. Chamerovzow in whose conduct of late there have been some incidents which bear no pleasing aspect. Wells Brown will tell you more about what he has done than I can well do in a letter. But not only has Chamerovzow behaved badly toward him, he has also acted toward Chesson in anything but a just or wor manner. We are, several of us, engaged in a very plain outspoken correspondence with him. I am very anxious to see how all will end. If he candidly acknowledges his faults and makes the necessary apologies I shall be desirous of keeping up our~~

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friendly cooperation with him. There
is no denying that he has done very
much to ~~[illegible]~~ bring the B. & F. into
nearer connection with the true Abolitionists;
The fact that your Society's meetings are
so fully mentioned in the Reporter now;
that Parker Pillsbury was invited to speak
at the Anniversary in Exeter Hall, are
events that could not have occurred under
the Scoble régime. — If we can therefore
honourable cooperate with Chamerovzow,
I shall ever think it my duty to do so,
even if his measures do not come altogether
come up to my ideal of Antislavery

work. —

And now I must bring my letter to
a close, it is but a poor return for your
valuable communication; but I am
pressed for time. My many engagements
in home duties must be attended to, even
if I appear ungrateful in your eyes: but I may

Say that however I may appear I am

ever yours most faithfully

S. Alfred Steinthal.

Revd. Samuel May. —

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